(c) whether the existing laws are capable to deal with cyber criminals and punish them adequately; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (b) The cases of cyber crimes registered under IT Act and IPC Section during 2003 and 2004 are as under:—

Year	IT Act	IPC	Total
2003	60	411	471
2004	65	431	496

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Section 43, 65, 66, 72 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 deal with cyber contraventions and crimes.

Assistance to pilgrims of Kailash Mansarover

†2463. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance being provided to pilgrims of Kailash Mansarover by Government;

(b) whether Sino-Indian Governments have prepared or propose to prepare any scheme jointly to facilitate the Kailash Mansarover yatra;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the present status of the said scheme;

(e) whether transit expenses of the pilgrims of Kailash Mansarover will decline after implementation of the said scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is presently organised by the Government under a bilateral arrangement with the Chinese Government through the Lipulekh Pass in Pithoragarh, Uttaranchal. Government pay Rupees three thosand two hundred and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

fifty (Rs. 3,250/-) for each pilgrim to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) for arrangements made by KMVN for the Yatra. In additon, during the course of the Yatra, facilities provided by the Government to the pilgrims include free medical assistance, security and escort cover by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) till the Lipulekh Pass on the Indian side, communication links with China, and provision of satellite phone to the Liaison Officer for each batch of pilgrims for use during emergency throughout the Yatra. A Liaison Officer is attached by the Government with each batch of pilgrims, who is responsible for their general welfare.

(b) to (d) It is Government's endeavour to improve and upgrade facilities for the pilgrims going on the Yatra on a continuing basis. In this spirit, Government have, from time to time, also raised with the Chinese Government issues regarding the improvement of facilities on their side for the pilgrims. There has been progressive improvement over the years. In addition, Government have proposed to the Cinese side on several occasions in recent years opening of an alternative route of Kailash-Mansarovar through Demchok in Jammu and Kashmir, or Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh, which would be shorter and more convenient. The Chinese side has cited difficulty in opening these routes on the ground that it would involve travel over longer distances on their side through difficult terrain, with poor road conditions and lack of proper infrastructure for accommodation and communications.

(e) to (f) The issue of costing of the Yatra through the proposed alternative routes will arise only after an agreement could be reached with the Chinese side on these routes and specific arrangements put in place.

Indo-Pak talks on Siachen

2464. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of progress Government have made in talks with Pakistan over Kashmir in general and Siachen in particular during last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Jammu and Kashmir is one of the issues being discussed with Pakistan within the framework of the India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue. Two rounds of dialogue have been successfully concluded and the third round is scheduled to begin in January 2006. In